

against genocide, wherever it starts to foment.

By recognizing and learning about the crime against humanity, specifically about the Armenian genocide, we can begin to honor the courage of its victims and commemorate the strides made by its survivors and hope that others will not have to go down the track following the experiences that were suffered by the people of Armenia, only to be followed by the Jewish genocide and other genocides that we have seen, such as the one going on in Southern Sudan today.

So, again, let me commemorate and let me thank the Armenian Caucus for bringing this issue to us on this anniversary of that genocide.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to remember one of the worst atrocities of the twentieth century—the Armenian Genocide. April 24 will be the eighty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. Since that date falls during the April recess and the House will be out of session, I have chosen to make my remarks today.

From 1915 to 1923, one-and-a-half million Armenians died and countless others suffered as a result of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide by the rulers of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Half a million Armenians who escaped death were deported from their homelands, in modern-day Turkey, to the harsh deserts of the Middle East.

We cannot let succeeding generations forget these horrible atrocities, nor deny that they ever happened. Therefore it is important for the U.S. Government to recognize the Armenian Genocide and do what it can to ensure that the genocide's historical records are preserved, just as the artifacts of the Nazi Holocaust are preserved. By keeping memories alive through preserving history, we and our children can learn about the chilling consequences of mass hatred, bigotry and intolerance. And hopefully, by teaching and reminding ourselves of past atrocities, humanity will not be doomed to repeat them.

The Armenian-American communities throughout the United States, as well as all people of goodwill, stand firm in our resolve not to let the world forget the Armenian Genocide. In solidarity with the victims of the Jewish Holocaust, the Cambodian massacres, the Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda, and ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, we must continually recognize these crimes against humanity and steadfastly oppose the use of genocide anywhere in the world.

In closing, I hope that every American will stand in solidarity with our Armenian sisters and brothers to commemorate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Let us honor all victims of torture and genocide by paying tribute to their memory, showing them compassion, and never forgetting the suffering they have endured.

#### REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with all of my colleagues that have come to the floor, members of the Armenian Caucus here in the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1915 Armenian genocide to remember the 1½ million human beings, the women, the children, the men who were killed, and the 500,000 Armenians forcibly deported by the Ottoman Empire during an 8-year reign of brutal repression.

Armenians were deprived of their homes, their humanity, and ultimately their lives. Yet, America, as the greatest democracy and the land of freedom, has not yet made an official statement regarding the Armenian genocide.

Today, there are some in Congress, some in our country that ignore the lessons of the past by refusing to comment on the events surrounding the genocide. They are encouraging new hardships for Armenia by moving to lift sanctions against Azerbaijan caused by their continuing blockade of Armenia.

I am very proud, Mr. Speaker, of my heritage. I am part Armenian and part Assyrian. I believe the only Member of Congress both in the House and the Senate to claim these heritages. I came to this understanding, not just when I arrived in the Congress, as so many of us at the knees of our grandparents and the elders in our family, we were told firsthand the stories of the hardship and the suffering.

That is how I come to this understanding and this knowledge and why I bring this story and this understanding to the floor of the House and, indeed, to the House of Representatives.

I am very proud of this heritage and the contributions which my people have made to this great Nation. They have distinguished themselves in the arts, in law, in academics, in every walk of life in our great Nation, and they keep making important contributions to the life of this Nation.

It is inconceivable to me that this Nation would choose in some quarters to keep its head in the sand by not stating in the strongest terms our recognition of the genocide and our objection to what took place.

Why do I say this? Because I think it is very important to express very publicly, not only acknowledge what happened, but also understand that when we acknowledge that we are then teaching present and future generations of the events of yesteryear. As we move to educate today's generation about these lessons, we also express to them what we have learned.

To deny that a genocide occurred places a black mark on the values that our great Nation stands and fights for. I am proud to be a cosponsor, of course, of responsible legislation that brings

the tragedies in Armenia's history out of the shadows and into the light.

House Resolution 155, the U.S. Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution, directs the President to provide a complete collection of all United States records related to the Armenian genocide to document and affirm the United States record of protest in recognition of this crime against humanity.

House Resolution 398, the U.S. Training on and Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Resolution would affirm the U.S. record on the genocide and would very importantly educate others about the atrocities committed and the lessons we can learn from this tragedy against the people of Armenia. These are but two important steps we in the Congress can immediately take today.

I urge my colleagues to support these efforts to pass these bills.

In closing, I want to pay tribute to all of my colleagues that come to the floor every year on this. For those of my colleagues that are tuned into C-SPAN, Republicans, Democrats of all backgrounds from different States, communities across our Nation who recognize what took place, and come to the floor in humble tribute to those that gave their lives.

But it is up to us that really are entrusted with the life and the well-being of our Nation. Yes, to acknowledge and to pay tribute and to say how important this is. But as we do, understand that we do it for the enlightenment of our young people and to remind ourselves that wherever anything like this raises its head around the globe that we, as Members of the United States Congress, and as citizens of this great Nation, that we will give voice to that.

So I pay tribute to all of my colleagues. Those people who are resting in peace, perhaps where they are looking from are smiling and saying thank you to Members of the Congress for recognizing this. It is a sad time, but the recognition is well deserved.

#### PROJECT EXILE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about a piece of legislation passed on the floor of this House yesterday, Project Exile. Project Exile will send \$100 million to qualifying States who require a minimum 5-year sentence for criminals who use guns. This will send a clear message to criminals that, if they use a gun, they will go to jail, and they will go to jail for 5 years.

Project Exile will reverse the current situation and put criminals behind the bars of justice rather than law-abiding citizens of America being behind bars on the windows of their own homes.

Today, the average gun felon is locked up for about 18 months then

they are free to ravage our neighborhoods and our communities, our children's playgrounds, and our schools. I say, if they are going to do the crime, they need to do the time.

Project Exile finally focuses prosecution on criminals rather than laying the blame on firearms. Laws on guns only affect law-abiding citizens. Criminals, by their very nature, do not obey laws. We need common sense enforcement of existing law.

For decades, the anti-second amendment lobby has attacked gun manufacturers and law-abiding citizens, demanding laws and restrictions that further impede the inalienable rights of Americans to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their property. The anti-second amendment lobby has used a series of lies and half truths to spew a message and strike fear in the hearts of America.

David Kopel recently wrote an excellent piece in the April 17 issue of the *National Review*. He listed many of the prominent lies of the anti-gun crowd.

I believe it is critical in any debate that we discuss the merits of any issue based on fact, not on myth. Today I want to correct some of the misinformation that is out there so that we can base our decisions on fact alone.

The first myth is that, up to 17 children are killed every day in gun violence. I agree that even one child killed by a gun is one too many. Parents who choose to have guns in their home need to be cautious, conscientious, and aware of the gun, where it is, and absolutely certain that no child has access to it.

However, this statistic that 17 children die of gun violence every day is not exactly a fact. For that to be true, one has to include 18- and 19-year-olds as well as even some young adults. Nearly all of the deaths that are counted in this statistic are members of gangs, those in the act of committing a crime, or, unfortunately, those committing suicide. The actual gun death rate for children under the age of 14 is less than the rate of children who drown in swimming pool accidents.

The second lie is the so-called gun-show loophole. If any individual is engaged in the business of selling firearms, no matter where the sale takes place, whether it be in a store, his home, or a gun show, the seller must file a government registration form on every buyer and clear the sale through the FBI's National Instant Check System.

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To hear the President and Vice President say it, and other anti-second amendment people, one would think that 98 percent of crimes occur with guns that were bought at gun shows. In reality, according to the 1997 National Institute of Justice study, only 2 percent of guns used in crimes were purchased at gun shows.

The third lie is that the average citizen is committing many of these gun

crimes out there and that Americans are too ill tempered to be trusted with guns. But as my colleagues might guess, the facts tell a different picture. Seventy-five percent of murderers have adult criminal records. And a large portion of the other 25 percent have arrests and convictions as juveniles that are sealed under the cloak of youth offender protections, or they are actually teenagers when they kill.

Another interesting note is that 90 percent of adult murderers have adult criminal records. Why do we pretend, when we discover that criminals commit crimes, why do we pretend to be shocked? Over 99 percent of the gun owners in America responsibly use the guns that they have for hunting or protection. Why does the liberal anti-second amendment crowd want to continue placing burden upon burden on the 99 percent of gun owners who are law-abiding citizens?

With the passage of Project Exile: The Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act, we are trying to protect law-abiding citizens from these hardened gun-shooting criminals, criminals who have no respect for life nor for any other individual. Americans for too long have been held hostage by the thugs and drug dealers, the robbers and the gang members, and the lawless and the outlaw. We must reclaim our streets and reclaim our communities and reclaim our American heritage. We need to move forward with other important legislation like this.

#### WORKER COMPENSATION FOR NATIONAL LABORATORY EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue of worker compensation. Today, the administration, Secretary Richardson, President Clinton, and Vice President GORE announced a worker compensation program for workers at the national laboratories all across this country.

This has been a very sad chapter in the history of the United States. Workers have worked at these nuclear establishments and plants for many years, and they have been injured as a result, many of them have been injured, the Department now acknowledges, as a result of occupational exposures. The Department has decided to turn over a new leaf, and I applaud their position on that; and I rise today to put a piece of legislation in the hopper to deal with this situation.

In New Mexico, about 3 weeks ago, I attended a hearing in my district where workers came forward. They talked about how patriotic they were; they talked about how they were serving their country for many, many years and, as a result of their work,

they believed they came down with cancers, with beryllium disease, with asbestosis, with a variety of other illnesses. They were very heart-wrenching stories.

Today, I introduce a piece of legislation that will be comprehensive legislation. It will deal with all of these injuries that occurred and that were talked about at Los Alamos. It is comprehensive in the sense that it will cover beryllium, it will cover radiation, it will cover asbestos, and it will cover chemicals that these workers were exposed to.

The legislation provides that the workers will be able to come forward, very similar to the Workmen's Compensation program that is in place for the Federal Government. They will be able to demonstrate their exposure and what the illness was.

My legislation will also provide that during the 180-day period, while their claim is pending, that they will be able to get health care for free at the nearest Veterans Hospital.

And the burden is on the Government, because many of these individuals came forward and talked about how they had worked their whole life, and they knew there were exposures; but then, at the end of their period of time, they asked for their records and there were no records. Their records were lost. So under those circumstances, we clearly have to put the burden on the Government.

So I would urge my colleagues today, while my bill is specifically directed to New Mexico, I know there are many other colleagues around the country that have this same situation in their district. There are Democrats and Republicans. All areas of the United States are represented. So I think this is a great issue for us to join together in a bipartisan way and craft a solution to this problem at the national level.

The reason I think it is so important is that these workers were true patriots. They were people that loved their country and cared about their country and worked for it at a very crucial time for us, so we need now to do something for them.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE LIFE OF HERMAN B. WELLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Herman B. Wells, the 12th president of Indiana University, and the only person to serve that institution on three different occasions as its chief executive officer.

In 1937, he was appointed acting president. From 1938 to 1962, he was president; in 1968 he was interim president; and from 1968 to 2000 he served as chancellor. He died in Bloomington on March 18 and was buried the next week